

## Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

USSS-00 INRE-00 NSAE-00 /031 W

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O 261525ZSOCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8319

S E C R E T BONN 15529

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, GW

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF US MILITARY MATERIEL FROM FRG

REF: BONN 15456

1. ISRAEL EMBOFF CALLED EARLY OCT. 26 TO ASK FOR OUR ADVICE ABOUT MOVING THE REMAINING US MILITARY MATERIEL FROM BREMERHAVEN TO ISRAEL BY SHIP. WE TOLD HIM THAT AS MATTERS NOW STAND, THE FRG AUTHORITIES ARE REFUSING TO PERMIT THE LOADING OF THE REMAINING MATERIEL, WHICH CONSISTS OF ABOUT 100 TRUCKS AND 75,000 105MM ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. WE SAID THAT DESPITE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS BY THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, MADE ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, THE GERMAN POSITION APPEARED TO BE FIRM.

2. THE ISRAELI EMBOFF WONDERED WHETHER THE GERMANS MIGHT BE WILLING TO PERMIT SHIPMENT OF THE AMMO AND SOME OF THE TRUCKS BY A VESSEL, NAMED OPAL, WHICH IS PRESENTLY ENROUTE TO NORTHERN GERMANY FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. THE OPAL IS FLYING A LIBERIAN FLAG BUT HAS AN ISRAELI CAPTAIN AND CREW. ISRAELI EMBOFF THOUGHT THAT SHIPPING THE MATERIEL ON THIS VESSEL MIGHT ALLOW THE GERMANS SOME MANEUVERING

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ROOM WITH THE ARABS. WE UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THIS IDEA TO WASHINGTON ON A PRIORITY BASIS, ALTHOUGH WE NOTED THAT THE PRESENT GERMAN POSITION WOULD SEEM TO PRECLUDE ANY SHIPPING OF MATERIEL FROM FRG TERRITORY ON

ANY SHIPS OF WHATEVER NATIONALITY.

3. COMMENT: SHOULD WASHINGTON BE CONSIDERING THE  
ADVISABILITY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DEMARCHE TO THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUGGESTED IN REFTEL, IT MIGHT  
BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER OFFERING THE GERMANS AN  
ALTERNATIVE TO SHIPPING BY ISRAELI VESSELS: THE USE  
OF THE LIBERIAN VESSEL MENTIONED ABOVE MIGHT PROVIDE  
THEM WITH A POSSIBLE OUT.  
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

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